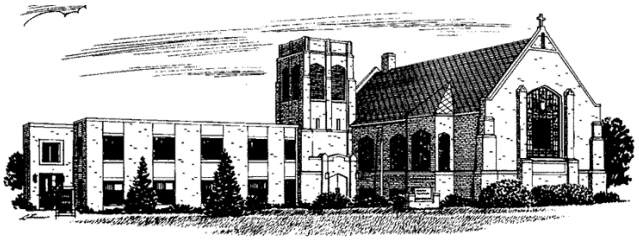


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

April 2018

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing…Let streets and homes with praises ring. (Brian Wren, ELW 389 v.1)

Springtime! Easter! New life! Our hearts sing with the good news of Jesus' resurrection! Each day we have the gift anew – to sing and share the saving, healing power of our risen Savior. As the hymnist writes: *Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.* (ELW 389 v.5) The good news is for us! The good news is for all! Alleluia!

On April 8 we welcome Bishop Craig Satterlee at Saron to preach and preside at the table. There will also be a time of conversation with the bishop between services in the dining room. All are welcome to be part of the dialog.

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday, April 1

Holy Communion – 8:30 & 11:00 AM

9:30 AM Easter Breakfast

10:00 AM Activities for Kids

The Learning Committee will be facilitating a children's craft and Easter Egg Hunt during Easter Breakfast on April 1, 2018.

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST - Easter Sunday breakfast will be between services from 9:30 until 10:45 a.m. Breakfast casseroles, pastries, fruit, juice and coffee will be served. Come early for the best selection and time to enjoy one another's company.

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: *oleson@saronlutheran.org*

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Nanci Fenrick, Financial Secretary
Email: nanci0126@yahoo.com
Emily Gaul, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –
We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; and **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville;

Serving in the military:
Andy Wedde – **California**
Sarah Deal Burrow – Afghanistan

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Nanci (financial secretary): Wednesday 2:15 p.m.
Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to *oleson@saronlutheran.org*. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to *info@saronlutheran.org*.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in April 2018

1- Shadden Talbert-Gulley
3 - Brian Culverhouse
4 – Cheryl Houser
Shawn de la Foret
Whitney (Johnson) Burk
Elizabeth Gaspari
8 - Janet Larson
11 - Alaina Bradley
13 - Marilyn Lucy
14 - Lorelei Gorman
Brandon Borr
15 - Carleen Knauf
Corinne Ondraka
19 - Robert Kynast
Debra Adams-Hurst
21 - Fritz Knauf
Andy Wedde
23 – Juliet Jacob
25 - C'Ella Mae Williams
Clem Brueck
Gayle Peterson
26 - Tom Siewert
27 - Linda Pater
28 - Brooke Henderson
Michael Breyen

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round." Please submit any corrections to the church office at 983-1273. Thanks.

WELCOME
We welcome into Saron through baptism Christopher Gilmore Gaspari. Kit, son of Scott and Lindsay, was baptized on March 4.

NEW MEMBER CLASS
If you are interested in learning more about the Christian faith from the Lutheran tradition, or interested in joining Saron, please let Pastor know. An inquirer's class will begin shortly with new members being received in May.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS
As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday April 1 –
Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

Sunday April 8 –
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

Sunday April 15 –
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday April 22 —
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Sunday April 29 —
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

WORSHIP BULLETINS
If you are interested in using a bulletin with no staples, please ask an usher. There are copies available.

NURSERY NEWS
She has been here for a few weeks and we are so happy to have Emily Gaul as our child care provider on Sunday mornings. I'd like to thank all the volunteers who regularly serve in the rotation for putting in extra time and those individuals who helped out just once or twice while we were without a childcare staff person. We were able to continue to give our little ones a safe place to spend time during the service because of you. If you are interested in joining our group of volunteers, please let me or Krin Jurgensen know.

--Marilyn Lucy (volunteer coordinator)

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Learning book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Mark your calendars now!
We will be holding Vacation Bible School in the evenings of August 6-9.

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS
Our conversations begin again after Easter. On April 5 at 9:30 a.m. we continue our study entitled "by heart – Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism." We will be discussing "Daily Prayer and the Household Chart" for two weeks. On April 19 we will do a study on the Assemblies of God and on April 26, the Church of Christ, Scientist. Come, join the conversation!

MEN'S MONTHLY DEVOTION
On Saturday, April 7th, 2018 Saron Men's Monthly Devotion and Breakfast group will meet at the Galley Grill on Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville at 9:00 am. The Galley Grill is on the Super 8 Motel property at 4296 Red Arrow Highway just north of the Tyler Honda car dealership. We welcome new participants!

TUESDAY EVENING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study will resume Tuesday, April 3.

We'll complete our study of World Religions and then we'll start our study of Genesis.
Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship (something to eat and something to drink). We know everyone is busy so Bible study is a "come as you can" group. All men are invited to join in. For more information call or text Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or email at bobkynast@gmail.com

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

The Ephesus Group
Would you like to meet with others from Saron on a Sunday afternoon for a Bible study and light lunch? If so, this group is for you. Contact Mary Kynast if interested.

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Join us Sunday, April 8, 6:30 in the upstairs lounge. "Take This Bread", by Sara Miles is our discussion topic. "Early one morning, for no earthly reason, Sara Miles, raised an Atheist, wandered into a church, received communion and found herself transformed - embracing a faith she'd once scorned". (Amazon) How this happened and how Sara went on to use her new found faith is beyond fascinating. It's a beautiful, passionate story that is an inspiration and will remain with you, the reader, forever.

The May meeting is May 6th. "Anything is Possible", by Elizabeth Strout is our choice. Strout is a Pulitzer Prize winning author and this little book carries on her tradition of excellent fiction. This is a cast of small-town characters that cope with a variety of life's demanding situations. Strout's fiction is always more complex than it first appears and that is what sucks the reader in very quickly. Please join us for both these events. Questions? Contact Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or *kcowall@hotmail.com*

"Think before you speak. Read before you think". (Fran Lebowitz)

Youth

APRIL MEETING

Saron's Youth Group will be meeting April 15, 2018 at 12:30 for Bible Study and activities. All middle school and high school youth are encouraged to come. We'll finish up at approximately 2:30. Any non-youth that would like to volunteer and attend, please let Scott know. *scottgaspari@outlook.com*.

HOUSTON BOUND

We're heading to Houston next summer for the National Youth Gathering. Two youth (Meredith Gacek and Jenna Henderson), as well as two adults (Laurel Gacek and Pastor Joan) are registered. The theme for this event is "This Changes Everything." The primary Scripture will be Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

Two fundraisers are planned. One is a trivia party. The details are below. The second will be introduced on April 8. Displayed will be a number of envelopes that offer a way for you to offer monetary support. Some examples: $15 for Gathering t-shirts; $10 for site-seeing in the city; $20 for misc. transportation. It's as simple as taking an envelope, filling it with the designated amount of cash or a check, and drop it in the offering plate.

Thank you for your support!

TRIVIA PARTY APRIL 29, 2018

Saron is having a 60 question Trivia Party April 29th!

A sign up form is in the Narthex. Participants will form teams of eight: you may bring your own team or teammates will be found for you on the day.

There will be a light lunch served immediately after the 11:00 AM service, and trivia will begin at 1:00 PM.

Cost is $20 per ticket and benefits our students going to the Houston ELCA Youth Gathering and the Saron Youth Group.

Questions can be e-mailed to scottgaspari@outlook.com.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

"Joyfully Sharing God's Love For All." Yes, that is what Saron does every day.

FACEBOOK

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. If you prefer your own or your family member's picture not to be posted, please let us know, so that we can honor that request.

LENTEN OUTREACH

Saron members have been incredibly generous in their giving to ELCA Good Gifts during Lent. This year we are focusing on Women and Children. We will be collecting contributions through Easter Sunday. Envelopes are in the narthex near the display table.

$125 – Microloan for a Woman
$40 – School Fees and Uniform for a Girl
$75 - Farming Field School for a Woman
$10 - School Supplies for a child ($300 for entire classroom)

CROP WALK NEWS

The Blossomland Crop Walk will be here before we know it! Mark your calendar for May 20. You have the option of walking all or part of the 5 mile route.

So lace up your shoes and start walking. Consider collecting donations for this worthwhile community cause.

Please ask Liz Kunkel, Jan Stevens, Steve Bell or Amy Nelson for a pledge envelope. Thank you.

SARON'S SIX COLLEGE STUDENTS

Danielle, Tim, Michael, Drew, Connor and Austin recently were sent a card and a Meijer gift card from Saron. We wish them all the best as they finish up this semester at college. Saron is always your home. We hope to see you at church this summer.

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

God's Blessings for supporting this mission to feed the hungry in our area. Please contact Jan Stevens@2694292044, if you'd like to help work at the SK or bake cookies. Thank YOU!

LWR Fair Trade

Thank you to all who have supported Fair Trade purchases through Lutheran World Relief. We will no longer be selling these items, at least for the near future. We are currently liquidating any present stock for a donation, until all items are sold.

MICHIGAN BLOOD DRIVE

July 9th from 2-6pm is the next date Michigan Blood will be at Saron. Regular donors, please save the date on your calendar. If you have never donated, maybe this is the day you try! Take care to eat and drink well before and after and bring a picture I.D. There will be snacks (have you had the white chocolate pretzel rods? the brownies?). About 37 out of every 100 Americans are eligible to donate blood – but only 3 to 4 people actually donate each year. One blood donation may help several people. Celebrate Independence Day and then give someone who needs blood a reason to celebrate! Any questions, contact Keith Stevens or Marilyn Lucy or look at MIBLOOD.ORG

Sarah Burrow - Update

Thanks to your generosity, another package has been sent off to Sarah, in time for Easter. In a note recently received from Sarah, she again reiterated how much she and her colleagues enjoy the goodies, especially the garlic powder!

Women of the ELCA

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at the home of Denise Cook. Colleen Lundgren will be the study leader.

ATTENTION ALL WOMEN OF SARON

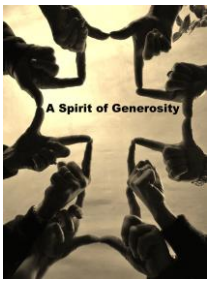
Saron Women's Annual Retreat will be held at the home of Linda Pater on Sat. April 28, 2018 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The cost for the day is $10.00 . Our speaker for the day will be Monique Yoder who has spent the last 10 years teaching in Lithuania and the Middle East. The topics for the day will be "Teaching As Missions in Lithuania" and "Teacher Becoming Student." The day also includes a "getting to know you" session, music, a break to visit or take a walk, breakfast and lunch and a time to say goodbye. Please join us for a fun filled and enlightening day. A sign up sheet will be placed in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please call Linda Pater at 269-468-3303

Support

A Special Message for travelers and those who prefer electronic giving - Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STEWARDSHIP

….with glad and generous hearts, praising God …. Acts 2:46



"The truly great and awesome thing about God's church is that Jesus the son of God meets us there. We receive love. We develop caring relationships with people different from ourselves. And we become bearers of an infinite hope."

Gather Magazine, March 2018, Christa Von Zychlin, p 39.

And it doesn't matter where we encounter "God's church." It can be at Saron, or in a Baptist church in St. Petersburg, FL for a Sandy Patti concert, or talking to family in a restaurant. We can encounter caring people different from ourselves who show their love of Christ and God by their actions and how they choose to live their lives. Thank God for a Jesus who modeled a life of love and hope and for everyone who believes in him and generously give of themselves.

God's work….Our hands.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley and Nanci Fenrick to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley and Nanci Fenrick the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement.

Thanks!
Matt Bradley, treasurer

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the church. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saves the church a considerable amount of money. Work includes folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday service, minor maintenance and some light cleaning/vacuuming. We really need some additional helpers, both men and women. It is a good fellowship opportunity as well as helping to maintain God's house. Please consider helping and if you have any questions talk to Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

HELP NEEDED AFTER SECOND SERVICE

Please consider helping out once every other month with the important job of securing our building after the second service. The job would be to lock all the outer doors, turn off lights and check a few areas in the building. It does not take long and usually you only are assigned once every other month if we have enough help. This is a job that needs to be done and we cannot expect our Pastor to have that responsibility. If you can help or you would like to find out more about the job please contact Janet or Bill Oleson.

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED

Please save your used ink cartridges as it saves the church money in office supplies. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

Facilities

Some new things are happening in our hospitality ministry and we would love to have you involved!

As this ministry has expanded greatly over the last several years we are looking for people to help with or lead in the following areas:

*Weekly Soup Suppers (Advent (4) & Lenten (5))
*Special Meals (Annual Meeting, Easter Breakfast, Tiscornia Labor Day Picnic)
*Blossomtime Parade Picnic
*Summer Mid-Week Beach service/dinner at Lion's Park (3 of them)
*Coffee hours following each and every 8:30 am and 11:00 am service
*Cakes ordered and served for special events such as baptisms

Training to manage an event would be provided! If you have ever noticed, folks linger a lot longer after worship if there is a goodie served. Soup Suppers help build community. These are not "extras;" they provide an important function in our ministry.

For more information, contact Karen Johnson or Judi Huff.

Lenten Mid-Week Worship

Installing LED energy saving light bulbs

Council News

Attendance Record	
02/25/2018	86
03/04/2018	105
03/11/2018	85
03/18/2018	84

Saron's Council Members – 2018

Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – President
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Vice President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Treasurer
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Secretary
+++
Tyler Cook (429-5550) – Worship
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth
Nolan Becker (269-558-3252) – Youth
Don Hafer (269-470-2255) - Support
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Hospitality
Judy Huff (473-5075) - Hospitality
Kristen Harper (277-9277) – Learning
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home)– Pastor

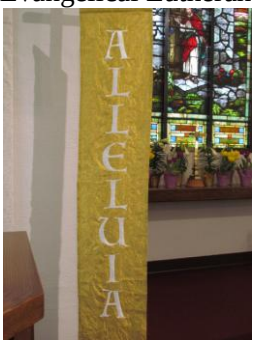
Hymn Sing

Deborah Circle making Easter bags

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



April 2018

We are looking to expand our hospitality leadership team.
Guidance offered before you begin!

I'd like to help with Mid-Week meals (Advent/Lent):
Help _____ Lead_____
I'd like to help with Mid-Week Beach Worship (summer – Lions Park):
Help _____ Lead_____
I'd like to help with coordinating coffee hour snacks (Sundays):
Help _____ Lead_____
I'd like to help with **special dinners:**
Tiscornia (Labor Day weekend) - Help _____ Lead_____
Annual meeting (January) - Help _____ Lead_____
Easter Breakfast - Help _____ Lead_____
I'd like to help with Blossomtime Parade Picnic (1st Sat in May):
Help _____ Lead_____
I'd like to help with special cakes (baptisms, etc) - order/pick up/serve:
Help _____ Lead_____

Name: _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Saron Volunteer Schedule

	April 1 Easter Sunday		**April 8 First Sunday of Easter**		**April 15 Second Sunday of Easter**		**April 22 Third Sunday of Easter**		**April 29 Fourth Sunday of Easter**	
	8:30	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***	**8:30**	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**
Assisting minister	Jan Stevens	Bob Kynast	Eric Standen	Connor Ashley	Wendy King	Colleen Lundgren	Sue Rood	Bob Deaton	Marilyn Frey	Connie Slater
Reader/ Comm. Asst.	Steve Bell	Darlene Kiessel	Wendy King	John Hoodlebrink	Karen Hinckley	Wendy Subrin	Jan Stevens	Mary Kynast	Fran Richards	Frieda Williams
Ushers	Peter & Karen Johnson	John Olson & Krin Jurgensen	Fritz Knauf & Stephania Ngonyani	Jerry and Ruth Stelling	Eric & Deb Standen	Dave & Kathie Bradley	Keith Stevens & Jim Manore	Scott & Lindsay Gaspari	Eric & Deb Standen	David & Emma Young
Acolyte		Mia Bradley, Meredith Gacek, Jenna & Brooke Henderson	Carter Hohman	Grant Gacek	Brooke Henderson	Molly Becker	Troy Burrow	Mia Bradley	Brooke Henderson	Meredith Gacek
Nursery 1st	Marilyn Lucy	Karen Hinckley	Mary Alice Brunner	Frieda Williams	Jenna Henderson	Kate Kohs	Deb Standen	Molly Becker	Janet Larson	Lindsay Gaspari
Nursery 2nd	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul
Bldg. close		Brad and Marilyn Frey		Jerry and Ruth Stelling		Bob and Mary Kynast		Dennis & Colleen Lundgren		Bob Hopkins
Snacks										
Flowers	Easter Garden by friends and members		In honor of Alaina Bradley's birthday		In honor of Corinne Ondraka's 25th birthday by Karen Hinckley		In honor of Bob Kynast's birthday		In honor of Tim & Rhi's anniversary by Carol and Don Hafer	

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Worship (see below) 10:00 a.m. Activities for Kids Easter Breakfast Between Services	**2** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**3** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**4** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**5** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**6**	**7** 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast Synod Council at Saron
8 Worship (see below) Bishop Satterlee preaching at Saron 9:40 Conversation with the Bishop 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Discussion Group	**9** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**10** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Support Committee Meeting	**11** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle Meeting	**12** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**13**	**14**
15 Worship (see below) 9:40 a.m. Sunday School Classes 12:30 p.m. Youth Group	**16** **Newsletter articles due** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**17** 4:00 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**18** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers Pastor on vacation	**19** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal ----------	**20** ----------	**21** ----------
22 Worship (see below) 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes _____	**23** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting ----------	**24** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study _____	**25** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers _____	**26** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Soup Kitchen Pastor back in office	**27**	**28** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Annual Women's Retreat
29 Worship (see below) 9:40 a.m. Sunday School Classes 1:00pm Trivia Party	**30** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**Sundays:** **Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Holy Communion** **9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes**				